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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/20/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [NATO](#) [KV](#) [PL](#)
SUBJECT: POLES INTEND TO REMAIN IN KFOR FOR THE LONG HAUL

REF: STATE 26179

Classified By: Political Counselor F. Daniel Sainz for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Warsaw has no plans to reduce or withdraw its forces from NATO's KFOR mission in Kosovo. Jan Szopozniak of the MFA's Security Policy Department told us March 19 that NATO missions had the highest priority among all military operations requiring the deployment of Polish troops abroad. He agreed with the U.S. position that it would be premature for KFOR troop contributing nations to reduce or withdraw their forces at this time and indicated that Poland intended to remain in Kosovo "for the long haul." That said, Szopozniak observed that Warsaw would be willing to consider changes in KFOR's strategy or deployment posture, but only if based on recommendations from SACEUR or the NATO Military Committee.

¶2. (SBU) Public statements from Defense Minister Bogdan Klich and other senior GoP officials support the MFA view that Warsaw accords the highest priority to NATO-related deployments.

¶3. (SBU) We also passed reftel non-paper to senior officials at the Ministry of National Defense.
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